

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 02506 121152Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 AID-05 /056 W

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P 121129Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 734

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PFOR, PINS, PINT, MASS, EAID

SUBJECT: REPORT OF PRESS CONFERENCE BY THAILAND USOM DIRECTOR

REF: STATE 023560

1. AP WIRE RECEIVED HERE CARRIED REPORT OF WASHINGTON PRESS CONFERENCE FEB. 11 BY ROGER ERNST, USOM DIRECTOR IN THAILAND. STORY CARRIED IN FEB.12 BANGKOK WORLD UNDER HEADING QTE US AID CUT WON'T HURT THAIS UNQTE.

2. AMONG OTHER COMMENTS, ARTICLE ATTRIBUTES STATEMENT TO ERNST THAT US HAS REDUCED ITS FORCES HERE FROM 38,000 TO QTE LESS THAN 24,000 UNQTE. THIS IS LIKELY TO RECEIVE WIDE PLAY IN PRESS AND STIMULATE PRESS QUERIES ABOUT OUR FORCE LEVEL HERE. WE INTEND TO USED FOLLOWING RESPONSE IN LINE WITH GUIDANCE REFTTEL: QTE THE AUTHORIZED LEVEL OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THAILAND IS ABOUT 27,000, BUT THE NUMBER IN-COUNTRY ON ANY PARTICULAR DAY MAY BE SOMETHING LOWER THAN THAT BECAUSE OF TEMPORARY DUTY ASSIGNMENTS, FURLOUGHS AND DELAYED REPLACEMENTS UNQTE. IF PRESSED FOR ACTUAL IN-COUNTRY TROOP LEVEL AT PRESENT, WE INTEND TO REPLY QTE ABOUT 25,000 UNQTE AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY ON BACKGROUND (BANGKOK 1429). KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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